Alabama Designer/Craftsmen

How to Become an Exhibiting Member

Standards Committee and Exhibiting Members

Craftsmen must be a member of Alabama Designer/Craftsmen before submitting work to the Standards Committee. Annual dues are $45.00.

A member whose work has been accepted by the Standards Committee may use the Alabama Designer/Craftsmen name and emblem on those articles that uphold the standards by which his work was approved.

Acceptance into the Alabama Designer/Craftsmen as an exhibiting member is granted to those who have perfected their craft with a mastery of technique and originality of design (or true to a traditional design and thus noted). The work should reflect the craftsperson's vision. Standards is a jury process during which the artist's work is either accepted or not accepted. Those interested in applying to Standards must be a member of the Alabama Designer/Craftsmen with current dues paid in full. There is no additional fee for applying to Standards.

Work will be judged on the following criteria:
(1) The manner in which the work is executed shows obvious mastery of the materials and is true to its function (for example, a pottery bowl has been trimmed properly and is not bottom heavy and a glass goblet sits level on its base).
(2) Originality of design. If traditional, the piece must adhere to the traditional format and be so noted (for example, the work must not merely be a copy of those with whom the artist studied or a copied design). Work done in a class or workshop will not be accepted. Each

piece must be signed by the artist indicating that it is his/her work in totality.
(3) The work must have a continuity of style. It is recognizable as the artist's work. It should have a consistency of design.
(4) The piece must function properly (for example, earrings must be light enough to wear and a pitcher pours without dripping).
Each of the five pieces submitted must meet each of the criteria listed above.

The following functional and nonfunctional crafts will be considered:
Clay, Fiber, Glass, Metal, Leather, Paper, Wood, Mixed Media
Others as needed

Prospective exhibiting members will:
(1) E-mail five examples of their work to the Standards Committee Chairperson; a resume of their craft training/experience; a statement explaining their work/vision and the process.
(2) All accepted in the first screening will bring those five pieces to Samford University for the second screening. Everyone drops their pieces off at the same time. They are labeled by name, title (if any), and category by those applying. Everyone's work will be picked up at the same time. The prospective exhibiting members are not required to be present.
Those wishing to go through Standards must have Step One of process completed by March 1 for April and July 1 for August. The Committee then votes accept or not accept on the work as a whole. If one of the five pieces does not meet the criteria, then the Standards Committee notifies the prospective exhibiting member that they will not be invited to Step Two.

Purchased items used in conjunction with the handcrafted item are acceptable as long as the focus remains on the handcrafted item. The

purchased addition cannot comprise more than 1/4 of the completed work.
Some examples of acceptable purchased items would include the following:
(1) Bamboo handles for tea pots
(2) Earring wires, chains from which the handcrafted item is attached, jump rings.
Some examples of what is not accepted are as follows:
(1) Bead stringing, unless the artist has made the beads.
(2) Anything made from a commercial mold
(3) China painting
(4) Paintings
(5) Photography
(6) Anything made from a purchased kit
(7) Work that is not original, unless it is a traditional design, which must be so noted.
Found objects may be used in combination with the handcrafted piece, not exceeding ¼ of the completed piece. One exception might be the use of the found object as the material with which to create a sculpture. This category also would need to go through the jury process. It is up to the discretion of the Standards Committee to allow this to be considered after researching the process proposed.

An expert in the field is always a part of the first screening and the second screening. If such an expert is not serving on the committee, the Chairperson will seek out an expert in the presented category. The Chairperson will make every effort to understand the artist's technical process and will clarify this process to the committee members. It is the responsibility of the Standards Chairperson to make sure all members serving on Standards understand the jury process.

The Chairperson will forward all applications to the President with his/her recommendations concerning the appropriateness of the craft

prior to continuing into the jury process. If the application for Standards jury processing is decided as “accepted” as to appropriateness by the President and the Standards Chairperson, the next step is Screening 1 and then Screening 2. The Committee members will e-mail either their acceptance or non-acceptance based on the four criteria (in the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the deciding vote). Then the artist applicant will submit work for Screening 2 of the jury process and the Committee members will view the work first hand. A silent paper vote will be taken to “accept” or “not accept” after discussion about the artwork during screening. The Chairperson will tally the votes and will give written notice of his/her status to those who applied.

The President appoints the Standards Committee Chairperson. The President has a place on the Standards Committee if he/she so chooses. The Chairperson picks his/her Committee with the President's approval. The Chairperson serves a two year term and the Committee is appointed yearly. There is no timeframe on how many years either may serve. The Chairperson will recommend his/her choice of successor as Standards Chairperson from those who have served on the Standards Committee. The recommended succeeding Standards Chairperson must be approved by the outgoing President. In the event the person doesn’t meet the approval of the outgoing President, then the incoming President will appoint a Standards Chairperson upon taking office in January.

The Standards Committee is made up of eight to twelve Alabama Designer/Craftsmen who are exhibiting members in good standing. The Committee will meet in April and again in August at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama to judge prospective exhibitor's work that passed the first screening process.

The Chairperson of the Standards Committee has the responsibility of keeping a written record in which he/she records the application

information including the application date along with a CD for submitted images of each applicant's work. The records should contain notes, emails and correspondence related to the jury process. The results of the preliminary jury process and the final jury process should be recorded. This record will be passed along to each successive Standards Committee chairman.

An Alabama Designer/Craftsmen member whose membership has not been paid by the deadline date at the end of the membership year, December 31, so as to remain a current member, is understood to be indicating that he/she is not interested in continuing membership in AD/C and therefore their Standards status is no longer in effect. If the membership is renewed after that deadline date he/she will be required to reapply to Standards in previously passed categories in order to reinstate showing/exhibition privileges in those categories.

An advisor will be assigned to each applicant to the Standards Committee to assist the applicant through the Standards process before submitting to the first screening. Each advisor will be a member who is familiar with the art medium to be juried and who is familiar with the Standards criteria. Each advisor will be selected by a mutual agreement between the President and the Standards Chairperson. The purpose of having an advisor is to assure that the applicant understands the requirements and criteria of the AD/C jury process. An advisor should understand his role in the process which is to advise the applicant concerning submission of appropriate images for Screening 1 and appropriate artwork at Screening 2.

(Revised and passed October 12, 2010)